

SAFETY FIRST! Tomorrow is All Fools' day. Be careful, beware, watch your step!

HOME EDITION

The Topeka State Journal

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1916—FOURTEEN PAGES

THERE are no firmer believers in signs than those who make a living painting them.

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

KILL 30 BANDITS IN FIRST BATTLE

U. S. Troops Rout 500 Villistas at San Geronimo.

Villa Shot in Leg; Escaped and Is in Hiding.

SEVERAL TROOPERS WOUNDED

Believe Villa Has More Men Than Colonel Dodd.

No Anxiety as to Outcome Felt at Headquarters.

TROOPS REACH SANTA MARIA

Field Bakery at Dublin Relieves Supplies Problem.

Use Native Mexican Flour and Crude Adobe Oven.

El Paso, March 31.—The American expeditionary forces into Mexico in search of Francisco Villa have fought and won their first battle and the first blood lost by American troops has been spilled at San Geronimo in the Guerrero district, according to official Mexican reports received here today.

The Villa loss was placed at thirty killed, and the Americans at four wounded. Among the Villa wounded was an officer named Lopez, who General Pershing thought might be Pablo Lopez, who led the band that murdered seventeen Americans at Santa Isabel, and who afterwards was erroneously reported killed in the fight at Columbus.

Gen. Eliseo Fernandez was among the Villa dead.

El Paso—Mexican Consul Garcia announced today that he had been informed by General Gavira, Carranza commander at Juarez that the latter had received word that the American troops had been engaged in battle with Villa's forces.

According to General Gavira's information, which was supplied in a telegram from Lieut. Col. Refugio Davila at Casas Grandes, the fight took place on March 30 at San Geronimo between the Seventh cavalry and 500 Villa forces, the latter losing their commander, Elideo Fernandez, and thirty men, and the Americans suffering several wounded.

Colonel Davila also wired General Gavira, according to Consul Garcia, that confirmation had been received that Villa had been wounded in the leg in the last fight with the Carranza forces and now is hiding in the north of Guerrero.

San Antonio, March 31.—General Funston today awaited news that fighting between American troops and a Villa force had begun along the Northwestern railway between Madera and Chihuahua. Information that he styled unofficial reached headquarters today that a considerable force of Villa's men had concentrated in that region and that the American cavalry was moving forward in strength. Carranza's troops also were reported preparing to resist Villa's men who were said to be assuming the offensive.

San Antonio, March 31.—Villa's force, estimated at five hundred, was severely defeated at Guerrero on March 29 by Colonel Dodd, according to a report from General Pershing to General Funston, sent from the San Geronimo ranch.

None of the American wounded was seriously injured. Villa was not present at the fight.

what was regarded as confirmation of the report that he was suffering from a broken leg had been received. His exact whereabouts had not been learned.

Colonel Dodd led his Seventh and Tenth cavalry in a smashing ride from the north toward Guerrero when he learned of the presence there of the Villa force, covering the 55 miles intervening in seventeen hours. General Pershing said he arrived there at 6 o'clock, going into action immediately, but whether it was 6 o'clock in the morning or afternoon the report did not indicate.

Capture Machine Guns.

It was a complete surprise to the Villa force, which had entered into celebration of its victory over the garrison the day before.

Soon after the action began the Mexicans were breaking for cover and beginning to disappear along the trails that lead to the mountains northeast of the railway. For ten miles the running fight that began at Guerrero was continued and abandoned only when the division of the retreating force into numerous small bodies made pursuit impossible.

Colonel Dodd reported that he had captured two machine guns and a considerable number of saddles and rifles. The fleeing bandits left behind several Carranza soldiers, who said they had been held by Villa for execution. They were released.

May Make New Stand.

General Pershing said that it was not improbable that Villa would endeavor to reassemble his forces some where along the head waters of the Santa Maria River.

He is moving his forces in such manner as to prevent if possible new contact with the retreating force any force that does make a stand.

He regarded as probable the elimination from active development of Villa for some time on account of his injured leg.

The fighting lasted five hours and although General Pershing's report calls to state whether it began in the morning or late in the afternoon, staff officers in General Funston's headquarters assumed that it was an early morning attack.

General Pershing reported that a part of Villa's losses was that of a number of horses. He expressed the opinion that the blow Colonel Dodd had inflicted was serious and would go far towards finishing the work of the military expedition.

Washington, March 31.—The war department this afternoon received word from the report of the Villa's loss had been badly beaten in a clash with United States troops. Four Americans were wounded, but none seriously.

In a fight with Villa's troops thirty Mexicans were killed, General Pershing reported. Four American privates were injured, but none seriously. Two machine guns, many cavalry horses and much ammunition was captured by the Americans. At the Villa's loss was a surprise on the Villa forces and culminated in a running fight in which they were driven for 10 miles into the mountains northeast of the railway where they separated into small bands.

Villa's Leg Broken.

The fight occurred about 6 p. m. March 29, near Guerrero and the report came from the San Geronimo district. Villa was not present during the encounter and is reported to be suffering from a broken leg and a lame hip.

The exact position of none of the three organizations was given out but Villa's outpost farthest from the American lines was said to have been about fifty miles of Chihuahua yesterday.

Villa has been concentrating his forces in that part of Chihuahua within the last few days and the forces he has gathered along the railway north from Minaca, where he was reported to have visited his wrath on some of the residents is believed to be greater than any he has commanded since he began his flight from the border almost a month ago.

Although not definitely known, the information that reached General Funston indicated Villa's men and the de facto government troops already were in contact.

Dodd's Cavalry on Trail.

Colonel Dodd, with the Seventh and Tenth cavalry has been moving steadily south and west since the division was developed in Topeka.

(Continued on Page 2)

POULTRY FAKERS!

Crop Stuffing Costs New Yorkers 7 Million a Year.

Pay 25 Cents Pound for Sand, Gravel and Paste.

New York, March 31.—An order forbidding the sale of live poultry with food in the crop at the time of sale will be put into effect Monday in New York city. The order was issued by John J. Dillon, state commissioner of food and markets who says that several million consumers suffer in health and purse from the widespread practice of stuffing the crops of birds to increase the weight.

New Yorkers are paying \$5,000,000 a year for a mixture of sand, gravel, meal paste and water, he said, and the chickens whose crops have been stuffed become diseased as a result and will die in three or four days if not killed.

Pay \$45,000,000 a Year.

There are 5,000 carloads of live poultry shipped to New York from western states annually, with approximately 5,000 tons to the car totaling about 140,000,000 pounds of poultry. This poultry retails for approximately 25 cents a pound, making the cost to the consumer \$35,000,000.

"Who were the ready reach the guilty shippers," added Mr. Dillon, "we can reach them through the dealers in New York city, for they will be forced to decline to purchase poultry which may be confiscated after it gets here."

Big Snow in S. Dakota Blocks R. R.

Deadwood, S. D., March 31.—Three feet of snow has fallen in the Black Hills in the past thirty-six hours. Railroad traffic is seriously crippled.

"ONLY 1 BOTTLE OF BEER AND I DRANK THAT," MAN SAYS

Farmer Gives Evidence in Divorce Case Today.

Tells of Party Held on His Farm Near Topeka.

FIGHT IN COURT OVER BOY

Norman J. Prescott and Wife Would Have Child Custody.

Witnesses Tell of Auto Rides With Other Than Husband.

All day today ten-year-old George Prescott, bright and handsome, has sat on a bench in the corridor outside of Judge A. W. Dana's court room, while judge, lawyers and witnesses have been determining whether he shall be a half orphan, and if so whether he shall spend the rest of his youthful years with his father or mother.

The case on trial is the divorce action brought by Lida Prescott against her husband, Norman J. Prescott. The case was filed last August following a fight in which Mrs. Prescott, who she maintains was more necessary when her husband threw her down a flight of stairs. While the husband filed an answer in the case his answer is not in the nature of a cross-petition. The hearing today has assumed the nature of a fight over the ten-year-old boy.

The defense has attempted to show that Mrs. Prescott is not a proper woman to have the custody of her own child. Efforts have been made through witnesses to show that Mrs. Prescott took frequent automobile rides with men other than her husband. The case is going to take up considerable time in the first division of the district court. Neighbors and friends of the family filled the court room.

Party of Four.

Charles Reed, a farmer living southwest of town, caused a ripple of interest here today when he testified through witnesses to show that Mrs. Prescott took frequent automobile rides with men other than her husband. The case is going to take up considerable time in the first division of the district court. Neighbors and friends of the family filled the court room.

(Continued on Page Four)

ARMY TO 180,000

Senate Considers Amendment to Army Bill Today.

U. S. Has 234,482 With Military Training Not Enlisted.

Washington, March 31.—Consideration of the army increase bill was continued in the senate today. A number of amendments were being awaiting disposition but committed amendments were to be considered first. One of those, proposed by Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee would restrict the enlisted strength of the regular army to 180,000.

Approximately 234,482 citizens of military age in the United States now outside the army have had military training. This total includes 30,000 men who served and passed through the organized militia during that period and 49,317 who graduated from some civil conscription training where they received instructions satisfactory to the war department.

ADULTS.

Adultery General McCain reported 57,263 men passed out as military discharges. There are 126,468 men who served and passed through the organized militia during that period and 49,317 who graduated from some civil conscription training where they received instructions satisfactory to the war department.

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Address Meet Thousand Miles From Speakers

Jackson, Mich., March 31.—Governor Hiram Johnson of California and Senator Charles E. Townsend of Michigan will deliver the principal addresses here tonight at the annual banquet of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, although neither of the speakers will be within hundreds of miles of the city. Their addresses will be transmitted by long distance telephone, Johnson from San Francisco and Townsend from Washington.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY

Prominent Kansan Slays Wife and Self With Razor.

Quarreled, Probably Over Much Property They Owned.

Lyons, Kan., March 31.—At 10 o'clock this morning, Theodore Moore an old resident of Rice county now living in Lyons, killed his wife by almost severing her head from her body with a razor and then cut his own throat with the same razor, dying soon after.

They had much property and neighbors said they had quarreled some time. No reason is known for their quarrel or for the deed, but the supposition is the trouble was over the property titles.

TEST R. R. PLAN

Funston Instructed to Try Out Supply Shipping.

U. S. Soldiers in Mexico Get 20 Per Cent Extra Wages.

Washington, March 31.—General Funston had instructions to make the first test today of General Carranza's plan for the commercial use of the Mexico Northwestern railroad for shipping supplies to the American troops pursuing Villa. By tendering his first consignment to the railroad Funston will begin the fair trial that is to be given the de facto government's consignment.

To the expense of the expedition entailed by the purchase of eight biplanes and two thousand cavalry horses today was added the extra pay for foreign service to the troops actually in Mexico. It was the first pay day for the American forces since they crossed the border.

Foreign service calls for 20 per cent additional for enlisted men and ten per cent for officers. The quartermaster general's office it was estimated the additional pay would amount to \$46,700 monthly.

SHE ALSO BILKED

Missouri Co-Ed Declares She Is Victim of Charity Work.

Testifies on Trial for Getting Society Women's Money.

Chicago, March 31.—The case of Miss Mabel Sturtevant, former University of Michigan student, charged by the government with using the mails for fraud in the case of the Missouri Co-Ed, was on trial today in the hands of the jury at noon today.

Chicago, March 31.—Arguments of attorneys in the case of Miss Mabel Sturtevant, former University of Missouri student, charged with using the mails in a scheme to defraud will be heard today. The taking of testimony by the government witnesses is expected to continue through the afternoon.

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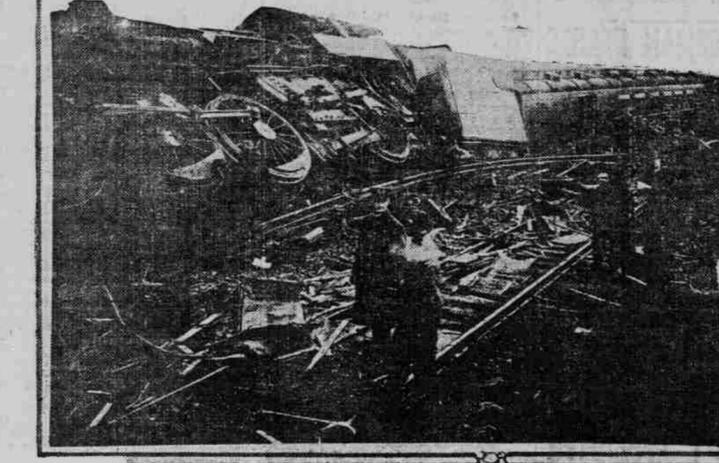
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FIRST PHOTO NEW YORK CENTRAL WRECK



Thirty persons were killed and scores were injured in the Lake Shore train wreck at Amherst, Ohio, early Wednesday morning. These pictures showing the effects of the disaster, were taken Wednesday afternoon, before any of the debris had been cleared away.

The wreck was one of those rarest of railroad calamities—not one collision, but two, involving three trains, on two tracks. When the half dozen investigations now under way are concluded, the blame will be fixed on some luckless railroad employee. A block signal, set suddenly and without warning, against a train speeding along eastward with another train following in the next "block" lies at the bottom of the doubt that exists as to the real cause of the wreck.

Widow Gets Job and Loses \$3,125 on the Same Day

Chicago, Ill., March 31.—While Mrs. Fred A. Busse, widow of a former mayor of Chicago, was earning the first day's salary as clerk in the city collector's office Wednesday, thieves entered her flat and stole jewelry valued at \$3,000 and \$125 in cash. It was learned today, Mrs. Busse was recently appointed to the position in the city hall as she was said by friends to have no means of support.

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